

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 03143 271424Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /091 W

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R 271230Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9163

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

URDKBT/AMEMBASSY RABAT 3984

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USUN NEW YORK 679

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 3143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR SP MO SS TS

SUBJECT: GOT POSITION RE SPANISH SAHARA

1. DURING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI MAY 23
AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO A REPORT FROM MOROCCO QUOTING
PRES BOURGUIBA AS FULLY SUPPORTING THE MOROCCAN POSITION
OVER SPANISH SAHARA (RABAT 2246). CHATTI SAID HE HAD
NOT SEEN THE TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW IN QUESTION, BUT
THAT IT IN EFFECT IS THE TUNISIAN POSITION.

2. CHATTI, HOWEVER, WENT ON TO REDESCRIBE TUNISIAN
POLICY ON SAHARA ISSUE AS SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED,
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AMONG SPAIN, MOROCCO AND MAURETANIA.
IF THAT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE, GOT BELIEVED IN UPHOLDING A
DECISION BY THE ICJ AT THE HAGUE. THE DIFFICULTY IN
THE MATTER, CHATTI SAID, IS THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 03143 271424Z

WHICH SPAIN AND ALGERIA ARE CALLING FOR. WHILE TUNISIA

IS FOR SELF-OETERMINATION, IT SEES THE SAHARAN POPULATION AS SO SMALL, SO THOROUGHLY DOMINATED BY SPANISH TROOPS, THAT A REFERENDUM WOULD BE USELESS. THE AREA COULD NOT BE VIABLE IF INDEPENDENT, AND IF A REFERENDUM LED TO INDEPENDENCE THAT WOULD ONLY MEAN CONTINUED SPANISH RULE IN ANOTHER FORM.

3. CHATTI OPINED THAT THE REFERENDUM PROBLEM MIGHT BE SOLVED BY PERMITTING SAHARAN REFUGEES IN MOROCCO TO PARTICIPATE; BUT HE SEEMED STILL TO SEE INCORPORATION INTO EITHER MAURETANIA OR MOROCCO AS THE ONLY REALISTIC CONCLUSIONS. HE REMARKED SADLY THAT THE ISSUE WAS A DIVISIVE ONE AS BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO.
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